



# Book Review



Science has been undermined in the news numerous times. As an book critic for *The White Coat Patriot*, the science journal of Schenectady High, you are assigned to do a critical analysis on one nonfiction science book of your choice – your job is to convince the community how the themes and messages in your book are important issues to consider. Your goal is to make your book SHINE as an important literary piece that EVERYONE must read!

*Select your book by the year final, Friday 16/12/2009.*

*Article is due IN CLASS on first day of class: 9/8/2009.*

*If you need for MsChien to print out your article, you must email her the document BEFORE the due date.*

## **FORMAT OF ARTICLE – DO ALL OF THESE! – Word Count: 1600 words**

### SUMMARY

Offer a general summary of the book - your summary must be more detailed than the summary offered on Amazon and the paragraphs on the book description. Include in your summary:

- USE EVIDENCE: Offer at least 3 multiple examples of your favorite parts of the book,
- USE EVIDENCE: Identify themes and/or the "big messages" that the author is trying to portray. Offer at least 3 examples to support this theme.

### DISCUSS SIGNIFICANCE: Why should we care?

Why are the themes and/or messages in this book significant to others? How is this book important? Use:

- Current events connection
- Statistical data

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOK QUESTIONS that you think your book really supported. Answer it thoroughly.

- “What separates science from all other human activities is its belief in the provisional nature of all conclusions” (Michael Shermer, www.edge.com). Critically evaluate this way of distinguishing the sciences from other areas of knowledge?
- All knowledge claims should be open to rational criticism. On what grounds and to what extent would you agree with this assertion?
- People need to believe that order can be glimpsed in the chaos of events" (adapted from John Gray, Heresies, 2004). In what ways and to what extent would you say this claim is relevant in at least two areas of knowledge?

### Bibliography

- In APA format

### Hints for success:

- You will be assessed based on a modified TOK Rubric. READ it before you read your book so that you know what to look out for.
- Use MsChien's Habits of Mind chart to help you write your review.
- This project is counted as your first exam (exams are 40% of your grade) in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of your senior year.*